

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MODELING TASK FORCE
January 24, 2007

MINUTES

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE MODELING TASK FORCE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Modeling Task Force held its meeting at SCAG's Main Office in Los Angeles.

Members Present:

Anup Kulkarni, OCTA
Mengzhao Hu, PB Americas Inc.
Tony Van Haagen, Caltrans-District 7
Brian Smolke, OCTA
Derek McGill, PB Americas Inc.
Bob Cheung, Katz, Okitsu & Assoc.
Kathy Hsiao, South Coast AQMD
Ed Humenik, Caltrans-District 7
Firooz Hamedani, Caltrans-District 12
Robert Farley, METRO
Eric Bierce, PB Americas Inc.
Chausie Chu, METRO
Paul Burke, METRO
Jimmy Chen, City of Irvine
Steve Smith, SANBAG (via teleconference)
Vamsee Modugula, Cambridge Systematic (via teleconference)

SCAG Staff Members Present:

Deng Bang Lee
Mike Ainsworth
Hsi-hwa Hu
Guoxiong Huang
Kihong Kim
Julie Zhu
Teresa Wang
Shwan Kuk
Jessica Meaney

1.0 Call to order and Introductions

Chairman Mony Patel, LADOT, called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.

2.0 Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MODELING TASK FORCE
January 24, 2007

MINUTES

3.0 Consent Calendar

September 27, 2006 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

4.0 Action Items

4.1 Modeling Task Force Chairperson

Mr. Deng Bang Lee endorsed the appointment of Anup Kulkarni (OCTA) as the Modeling Task Force Chairman for 2007. There were no objections to the appointment. Mr. Lee and the Modeling Task Force extended its appreciation to Mr. Mony Patel for serving as Chair and for working closely with the committee members and SCAG over the past year.

5.0 Information Items

5.1 Household Travel Survey

Mr. Deng Bang Lee, SCAG, reported that, for FY 07-08, SCAG will hire a consultant to review the last two travel surveys and look into the direction for next survey that will be used for the development of future travel demand models. The consultants will also be working as a team with other agencies, including MTA, OCTA, SANBAG, RCTC, AQMD, and Ventura County.

Mr. Chausie Chu, MTA, asked if trip tables from the 2001 travel survey are available for use. Mr. Guoxiong Huang, SCAG, responded that the trip tables are available at both RSA and CSA levels.

Mr. Lee proceeded to inform the task force that SCAG is now being asked to pay for a portion of the cost of processing CTPP data. Mr. Lee asked members provide information about the importance of CTPP for transportation model analysis. Mr. Chu said that the CTPP trip table is very useful information for the modeling analysis. Mrs. Ying Zhou, SCAG, also said that CTPP part 2 data is an important source for employment estimate and projection.

5.2 Schedule and Status of RTP

Mr. Shawn Kuk, SCAG, presented a brief update of the RTP. He mentioned that the Gap Analysis for the existing 2004 RTP was being prepared pursuant to SAFETEA-LU planning requirements. Mr. Kuk explained that in November 2006 a draft Gap Analysis was developed and released to the FHWA as well as the P&P Technical Advisory Committee for review. Currently, SCAG is in the process of receiving comments and preparing responses to the public comments. SCAG will release the draft to the Regional Council in March 2007 for adoption. Following the RC adoption of the draft, it is anticipated that the FHWA will certify the Gap Analysis by the July 1, 2007 statutory deadline for SAFETEA-LU compliance.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MODELING TASK FORCE
January 24, 2007

MINUTES

5.3 2003 Model Validation

Mr. Guoxiong Huang, SCAG, offered a general overview of the model calibration and validation process. He highlighted the new model elements and boundaries and explained that the new model is calibrated to the year 2000 travel behavior, and is validated to the year 2003 travel statistics.

Mr. Huang clarified that census data was used as a guide for the vehicle availability calibration, which is more detailed than the household survey data. The trip length frequency distribution by trip types was done comparing the survey data and CTPP data (for home-work purpose).

Mr. Huang proceeded to say that the model is in its final, fine tuning phase, and thanked staff for their long hours and help in completing this task. Mr. Huang addressed that modeling improvement is a continued procedure. He welcomed all the comments and suggestion to improve the model.

Mr. Deng Bang Lee also thanked all the committee members for working together with SCAG during the past year to complete this very complicated task. He notified the Task Force that the presentation would be included in the final validation report, along with their comments. He mentioned that SCAG would hold a nationwide peer-review committee meeting to review the model before May.

Mr. Tony Van Haagen, Caltrans-District 7, asked if HOV was considered in the validation process. Mr. Huang answered that the HOV model volumes were reviewed. Mr. Huang also explained the challenges in modeling HOV lanes. Mr. Deng Bang Lee said SCAG's FY07-08 OWP contained a project to examine and refine the HOV modeling methodology.

Ms. Vamsee Mogdula, Cambridge Systematic, asked about the time frame for the 2003 model to be sent to the consultants for future projects. Mr. Huang responded that it would be available as soon as the final adjustments are made.

Mr. Deng Bang Lee also informed Ms. Modgula about the future year models and said the preliminary testing for the 2030 model is expected to be reviewed soon.

5.4 Heavy-Duty Truck Model Improvement

Mr. Mike Ainsworth, SCAG, said the previous heavy-duty truck model improvement update was done approximately ten years ago. It needed to be upgraded, and more resources were put into it. In addition, the transition to TransCAD had to be achieved to make it compatible to the new model.

By the end of December 2006, approximately 1800 travel surveys were mailed to potential participants. Presently, 260 companies have been recruited. The schedule for the completion of the truck survey is dependent on the recruitments within the next

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MODELING TASK FORCE
January 24, 2007

MINUTES

couple of weeks. The survey should be wrapped up by mid-February and the summary by the end of February. The overall goal for completion of the entire project is by the end of March 2007.

Mr. Tony Van Haagen, Caltrans-District 7, asked if PCE update is included. Mr. Ainsworth said it is one of the elements in this project. Mr. Deng Bang Lee mentioned that SCAG asked the consultant to look into the relationship between trucks and passenger cars. If anyone has any idea, please let Mr. Ainsworth know.

5.5 MTA 2007-2008 OWP

Mr. Chausie Chu, MTA, gave a brief overview of two major areas of the modeling effort for FY07. First, the 2007 long-range model development and application is close to the completing stage. The second area is the refinements of the long-range plan that will be accepted by FTA.

FY08 will be the continuation of FY07's work. A series of model application work for several transit corridor projects include 1) Exposition Line Phase II, from Culver City to Santa Monica, 2) Crenshaw Corridor, 3) Downtown Connector, 4) Red Line subway extension along the Wilshire Corridor, and 5) the Canoga BRT.

For procedure development side, the first and the most important task is an innovative approach to capture congestion relieve benefit of large capacity vehicles alone transit corridors. The second project is to streamline and enhance in-house network coding, compilation and quality control for validation procedure. The third procedural task is to complete the Cube cargo model development.

The fourth task is to analyze trip distribution model. Since SCAG has completed trip distribution model, Mr. Chu thought MTA could use SCAG's trip table and feed it into MTA's mode choice model.

Mr. Guoxiong Huang discussed SCAG's mode choice model for transit sub-mode. SCAG would like to draw some experience from MTA in terms of mode definition and model specification.

5.6 OCTA 2007-2008 OWP

Mr. Anup Kulkarni, OCTA, said that last year OCTA completed the long-range transportation plan, which was a key component of the Measure-M Renewal.

OCTA will have a busy year with a number of upcoming studies for Orange County requiring traffic forecasting: 1) South County major investment study, including a component involving toll roads 2) I-405 PSR/PDS 3) Central County major investment study 4) Costa Mesa Freeway access study improvement plan.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
MODELING TASK FORCE
January 24, 2007

MINUTES

OCTA will also update OCTAM 3.2 to incorporate OCP 2006 socio-economic forecasts. Socioeconomic data has been projected between year 2005 and 2035. The number of modeling zones will increase to 1751 from 1658.

Mr. Kulkarni mentioned that OCTA continues to work on the OCTAM conversion to TransCAD. He looks forward to working with SCAG on the conversion process.

5.7 Travel Demand Modeling Software Evaluation

Mr. Jimmy Chen, City of Irvine, submitted a PowerPoint presentation evaluating the different travel demand software, outlining the city's project objectives, ITAM models, methodology used for software package evaluation and their use, software comparison, recommended transition plan, and conclusions.

Mr. Chen said that the City of Irvine has listed three options for software packages: 1) keep the TRANSPLAN-based ITAM models, 2) use CUBE to upgrade ITAM models, 3) use TransCAD to upgrade ITAM models. In conclusion, Mr. Chen recommends that the CUBE options be selected for Phase I and the TransCAD option for Phase II model development.

6.0 Open Discussion and Other Business

7.0 Schedule and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

8.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM. The next meeting will be held on March 28, 2007 at SCAG offices in downtown Los Angeles.